

THE Shadow

DYNAMITE 4

GARTH ENNIS • AARON CAMPBELL



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THE Shadow[®]

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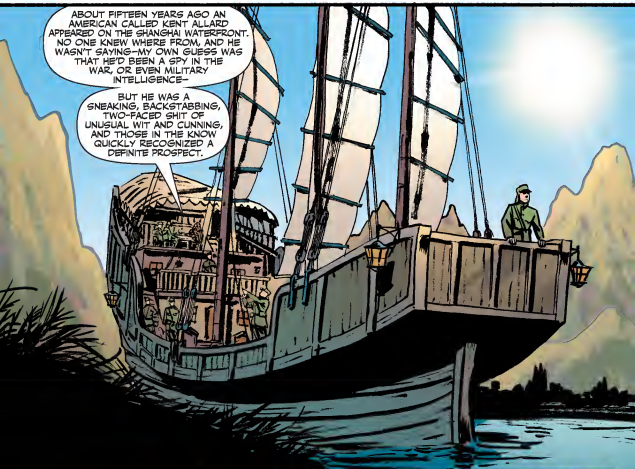
"WHO IS HE?"

"I'LL TELL YOU
WHAT I KNOW."

Shadow
**THE FIRE OF
CREATION**
PART FOUR

ABOUT FIFTEEN YEARS AGO AN AMERICAN CALLED KENT ALLARD APPEARED ON THE SHANGHAI WATERFRONT. NO ONE KNEW WHERE FROM, AND HE WASN'T SAYING—MY OWN GUESS WAS THAT HE'D BEEN A SPY IN THE WAR, OR EVEN MILITARY INTELLIGENCE—

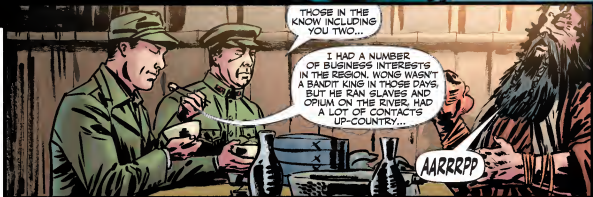
BUT HE WAS A SNEAKING, BACKSTABBING, TWO-FACED SHIT OF UNUSUAL WIT AND CUNNING, AND THOSE IN THE KNOW QUICKLY RECOGNIZED A DEFINITE PROSPECT.



THOSE IN THE KNOW INCLUDING YOU TWO...

I HAD A NUMBER OF BUSINESS INTERESTS IN THE REGION. WONG WASN'T A BANDIT KING IN THOSE DAYS, BUT HE RAN SLAVES AND OPIUM ON THE RIVER, HAD A LOT OF CONTACTS UP-COUNTRY...

AARRRRP



SHAMEFUL.

OH, SORRY, GREAT SIR GENERAL! YOU'RE NOT AT SOME QUEERBOY TOKYO TEA CEREMONY NOW!

NOT YOU, HIM.



THAT A JAPANESE OFFICER COULD EVER HAVE--

WELL, LET'S SAY IT'S A GOOD JOB I DID, OR WE WOULDN'T BE SITTING HERE NOW.

ANYWAY.

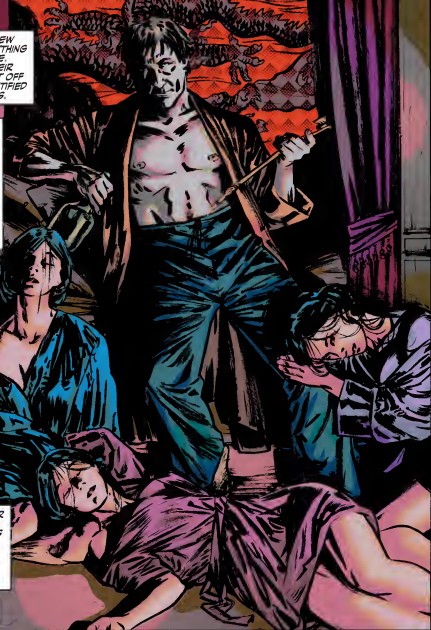


"ALLARD SOON KNEW EVERYONE, AND EVERYTHING ABOUT EVERYONE. HE ROMANCHED THEIR WHORES AND BOUGHT OFF THEIR SERVANTS, IDENTIFIED ACHILLES' HEELS."

"WITHIN A MONTH, EVERYONE WHO NEEDED TO HAD FOUND THEIR WAY TO THE GRAVE. THAT TURNED OUT TO BE REMARKABLY FEW; ALLARD WAS MORE A SURGEON THAN A BUTCHER, AND CUT AWAY ONLY THE MOST STUBBORN TISSUE."

"THERE WAS NO HONOR ON THE WATERFRONT. NO DEAR OLD FRIENDS TO BE AVENGED. WE WATCHED, TOOK NOTE, SHRUGGED, AND CARRIED ON DOING BUSINESS."

"PROFITS SOARED."



THINGS WENT WELL FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS. ALLARD WAS NEVER STUPID ENOUGH TO SET HIMSELF UP AS SOME KIND OF KING OF THE SHANGHAI UNDERWORLD, THAT WASN'T THE GOAL AT ALL.

EVERYONE THRIVED, EVERYONE WAS HAPPY, AND THEN ALLARD SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED, AND WHAT CAME BACK IN HIS PLACE... WAS...

WHAT?

SORRY, GENERAL. MY FINELY-HONED CYNICISM DESERTS ME AT TIMES LIKE THESE.

BUT SOMEONE CAME BACK.





"SOMEONE WHO KNEW
EXACTLY WHAT ALLARD
KNEW. ABOUT EVERYONE
AND EVERYTHING.

"HIDING PLACES. SECRET TUNNELS.
ESCAPE ROUTES AND SANCTUARIES.
OLD DEBTS THAT MIGHT JUST
MEAN SALVATION. ALL USELESS
WHEN THE MOMENT CAME, BECAUSE
WHOEVER-IT-WAS ALREADY LAY IN WAIT.

"EVERY CRIMINAL OF
RANK IN THE CITY DIED.
VERY NEARLY TRIPLE
FIGURES, GENERAL."



AND ALL
OF THEM IN
ONE NIGHT.
WHICH-I
ASSURE YOU-WAS
IMPOSSIBLE.

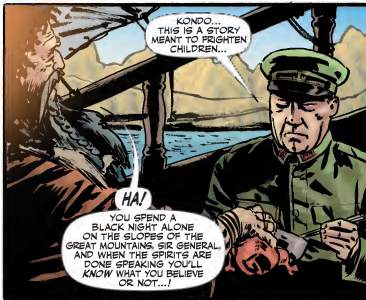


IF HE
ACTED ALONE,
YOU MEAN...

SOME WITNESSES
WENT MAD, SOME DIDN'T.
BUT NONE REPORTED MORE
THAN ONE MAN.

WHO APPEARED
FROM PLACES HE COULD
NOT HAVE BEEN. WHO COULD
NOT BE SEEN DIRECTLY.
WHO STRUCK-

AND IN
AN INSTANT WAS
SWALLOWED BY THE
DARKNESS.



KONDO...
THIS IS A STORY
MEANT TO FRIGHTEN
CHILDREN...

HA!

YOU SPEND A
BLACK NIGHT ALONE
ON THE SLOPES OF THE
GREAT MOUNTAINS, SIR GENERAL,
AND WHEN THE SPIRITS ARE
DONE SPEAKING YOU'LL
KNOW WHAT YOU BELIEVE
OR NOT...



SPIRITS?
AM I EXPECTED
TO--

WONG
AND I DIFFER
HERE. THERE'S
ALWAYS BEEN
TALK OF A PLACE
OR PLACES IN
THE HIMALAYAS,
WHERE HOLY MEN
REDEEM THE
FOULEST VILLAINS
AND TRAIN THEM
AS... I DON'T
KNOW. I SUPPOSE
WE MIGHT
CALL THEM
SAMURAI.

THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE
THEN SENT OUT INTO THE WORLD
TO MAKE IT A BETTER PLACE, WHICH IS
THE PART I TRULY DO FIND UNBELIEVABLE.



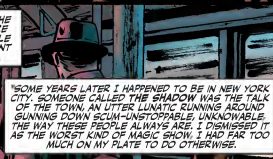
WAIT A MINUTE, HOW DID
YOU TWO SURVIVE THIS NIGHT
OF THE LONG KNIVES...?

OUT OF
TOWN ON BUSINESS.
DEAL ACTUALLY WENT
SOUTH, BUT WHEN
YOU CONSIDER THE
ALTERNATIVE...

PURE
LUCK.



"IT WAS ONE NIGHT, AND THEN HE
WAS GONE. THE RACKETS WERE
LEFT IN DISARRAY BY THIS LITTLE
PARTING SHOT, THE WATERFRONT
TOOK MONTHS TO RECOVER.



"SOME YEARS LATER I HAPPENED TO BE IN NEW YORK
CITY. SOMEONE CALLED THE SHADOW WAS THE TALK
OF THE TOWN, AN UTTER LUNATIC RUNNING AROUND
GUNNING DOWN SCUM-UNSTOPPABLE, UNKNOWNABLE.
THE WAY THESE PEOPLE ALWAYS ARE. I DISMISSED IT
AS THE WORST KIND OF MAGIC SHOW. I HAD FAR TOO
MUCH ON MY PLATE TO DO OTHERWISE.

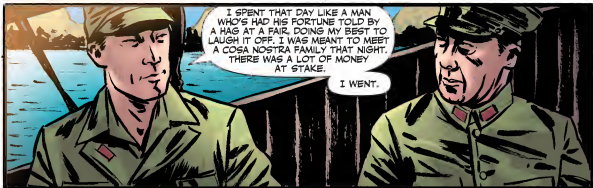
"THEN I READ THE PAPER."

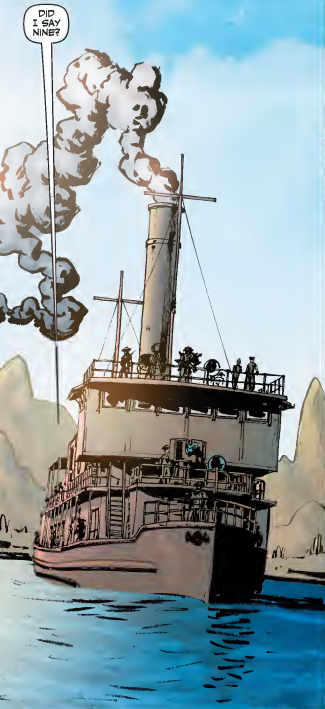


"IT WAS HIM
IT COULDN'T BE.
IT COULDN'T BE.

Socialite Lamont Cranston
with mysterious beauty

"BUT IT WAS HIM."





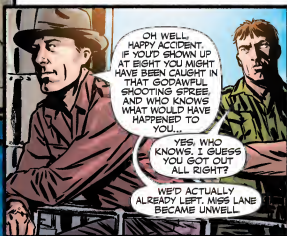
DID
I SAY
NINE?



YES,
YOU DID...

HMM.
I COULD HAVE
SWORN I SAID
EIGHT.

NO, YOU
DIDN'T...



OH WELL.
HAPPY ACCIDENT.
IF YOU'D SHOWN UP
AT EIGHT YOU MIGHT
HAVE BEEN CAUGHT IN
THAT GODAWFUL
SHOOTING SPREE.
AND WHO KNOWS
WHAT WOULD HAVE
HAPPENED TO
YOU...

YES, WHO
KNOWS. I GUESS
YOU GOT OUT
ALL RIGHT?

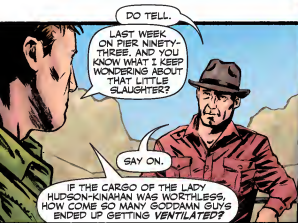
WE'D ACTUALLY
ALREADY LEFT. MISS LANE
BECAME UNWELL.



WELL, I MANAGED TO TALK TO A
COUPLE OF COPS. VICTIMS WERE JUST
LOCAL SCUMBAGS. NO SIGN OF THIS
KONDO, OR ANY OTHER JAPANESE.

FIVE MEN GUNNED
DOWN WITHOUT ANY OF THEM
GETTING OFF A SHOT. AN HOUR
LATER, IT TURNS OUT, EIGHT MORE
MEN—WHITE MEN—ARE KILLED ON
THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN.
SAME AGAIN.

YOU KNOW
WHAT THIS KIND
OF REMINDS
ME OF?





AM I CORRECT
IN BELIEVING THAT THESE
THINGS CAN BE SET TO
FLOAT UNDER THE WATER?
SO THAT YOU CAN'T SEE
THEM AT ALL?

UH, YES...



YES SIR, THAT'S SORT OF THE POINT,
BUT THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE TETHERED
TO THE RIVER BED WITH CHAINS, OTHERWISE
THEY JUST GO WHEREVER THE CURRENT
TAKES THEM.

THAT'LL
BE FINE.

MAJOR
KONDO, CAN
I ASK A
QUESTION,
SIR?



IF THE YANGTZE IS
OURS, WHY EXACTLY ARE WE
WORRIED ABOUT AMERICAN
GUNBOATS?

BECAUSE THE
FARTHER WE GO FROM
SHANGHAI, THE MORE DUBIOUS
OUR JURISDICTION GETS.
ACCORDING TO HOW WASHINGTON
SEES THINGS, ANYWAY.

LET ME
KNOW WHEN
THEY'RE READY,
SERGEANT.



...SO IF YOU'RE SUCH A MIGHTY
WARLORD, WHY DID YOU COME ALL
THIS WAY YOURSELF INSTEAD OF
SENDING A MESSENGER
INSTEAD?

MM?

I SAID,
WHY IS THE
GREAT WONG
DOING THE JOB
OF AN ERRAND
BOY...?

NOT TO ANY EFFECT, AT
ANY RATE. BACK IN THE OLD
DAYS THE MONGOLS CHOPPED
OFF ONE OF HIS TESTICLES,
AND ALL THEY WANTED TO
KNOW WAS WHICH WAY
NORTH WAS.

HE
WOULDN'T TALK.
LEGEND HAS IT HE
BEAT THEM TO
DEATH WITH THE
OTHER ONE.

HEH!

OH. BECAUSE
I KNEW KONDO
WOULD JUST TORTURE
THE LOCATION OUT
OF WHOEVER I
SENT.

NOBODY
TORTURES WONG,
GENERAL SIR MIGHTY
GENERAL SIR.

YOU TWO
MAKE QUITE THE
PAIR, DON'T YOU?
NO HONOR ON THE
WATERFRONT, YOU
CAN CERTAINLY SAY
THAT AGAIN...

BECAUSE
HE'D HAVE ME
TORTURED? I'D DO
THE SAME TO HIM,
IT'S NOTHING
PERSONAL.

IT'S JUST BUSINESS,
GENERAL SIR GENERAL.
OR ARE YOU GOING TO GIVE
US YOUR OWN THOUGHTS
ON HONOR, AND PUT THE
ENTIRE CREW TO
SLEEP?

I'M AMAZED
YOU CAN EVEN SAY
THE WORD WITHOUT
CHOKING ON IT.

YOU BARGAIN
AND BID LIKE A BUNCH
OF MARKET STALLHOLDERS,
THEN YOU TRY TO PLAY IT
CHEAP BY IGNORING WONG'S
OFFER AND PISSING
OFF TO AFRICA.

I'M SURE
YOU HAD THE IVANS
AND THE HUNS
KNOCKED OFF IN THE
MOST HONORABLE
MANNER POSSIBLE.
THE YANKEES TOO,
IF THEY EVER DO
SHOW UP.

AM I MISSING
ANYTHING...?



WE DO WHAT WE DO FOR
THE HONOR OF JAPAN, AND
THE JUDGEMENT OF SOME
HIGHWAY ROBBER IS
NOT EVEN--

HA HA HA HA,
YOU'RE AN ARMY AND
YOU COME TO CONQUER.
YOU'RE IN IT FOR
WHATEVER YOU CAN GET.
LIKE WONG.



THAT IS
WHERE YOU ARE
WRONG.

WE JAPANESE COME
NOT AS CONQUERORS, BUT AS
LIBERATORS. WE WILL UNITE THE
PEOPLES OF THE EASTERN WORLD;
OUR GREATER EAST ASIAN
CO-PROSPERITY SPHERE WILL
GUARANTEE HARMONY AND
PLENTRY FOR ALL.

WHEN THIS MISSION
IS SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED
AND THE WEAPON IS OPERATIONAL,
WE WILL SMASH THE WHITE WESTERN
OPPRESSOR ONCE AND FOR ALL. THEN EVEN
YOU CHINESE BARBARIANS WILL RECOGNIZE
THE BENEVOLENCE OF HIS MAJESTY
THE EMPEROR.



GREATER...
EAST...ASIAN...?

"CO-PROSPERITY
SPHERE."

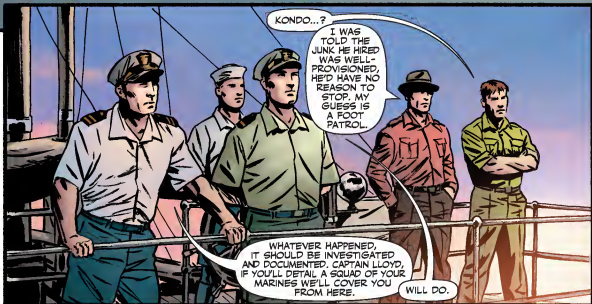


YOU KNOW--

I THINK
I'VE SEEN
IT.



OH, GOD.



KONDO...?

I WAS TOLD THE JUNK HE HIRED WAS WELL-PROVISIONED, HE'D HAVE NO REASON TO STOP. MY GUESS IS A FOOT PATROL.

WHATEVER HAPPENED, IT SHOULD BE INVESTIGATED AND DOCUMENTED. CAPTAIN LLOYD, IF YOU'LL DETAIL A SQUAD OF YOUR MARINES WE'LL COVER YOU FROM HERE.

WILL DO.



WAIT A MINUTE, WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS! I GAVE INSTRUCTIONS THAT--

YOU SHOULD GO WITH THEM, MISTER FINNEGAN.

WHAT...?

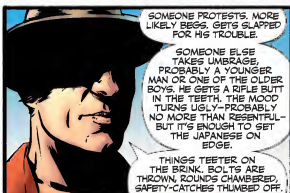
THERE ARE THINGS HERE THAT YOU SHOULD SEE.





THEY COME IN
LOOKING FOR FOOD
AND SHELTER. THEY
DEMAND IT.

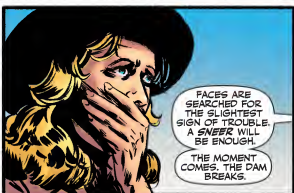
THE VILLAGERS
OFFER WHAT CAN BE
SPARED, BUT IT'S IMMEDIATELY
OBVIOUS THAT THAT SIMPLY
WON'T BE ENOUGH.



SOMEONE PROTESTS. MORE
LIKELY BEGS. GETS SLAPPED
FOR HIS TROUBLE.

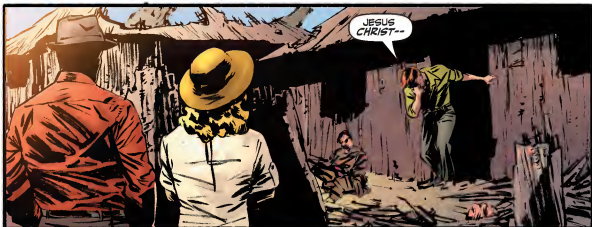
SOMEONE ELSE
TAKES UMBRAGE.
PROBABLY A YOUNGER
MAN OR ONE OF THE OLDER
BOYS. HE GETS A RIFLE BUTT
IN THE TEETH. THE MOOD
TURNS UGLY--PROBABLY
NO MORE THAN RESENTFUL--
BUT IT'S ENOUGH TO GET
THE JAPANESE ON
EDGE.

THINGS TEETER ON
THE BRINK. BOLTS ARE
THROWN, ROUNDS CHAMBERED,
SAFETY-CATCHES THUMBED OFF.



FACES ARE
SEARCHED FOR
THE SLIGHTEST
SIGN OF TROUBLE.
A *SNEER* WILL
BE ENOUGH.

THE MOMENT
COMES. THE DAM
BREAKS.

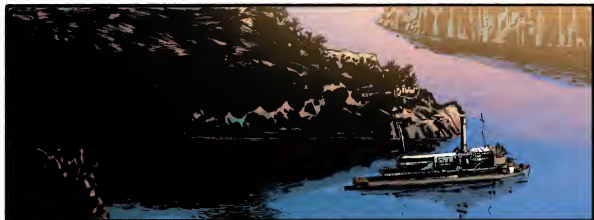


JESUS
CHRIST--



AND THEN
THERE ARE THE
WOMEN.





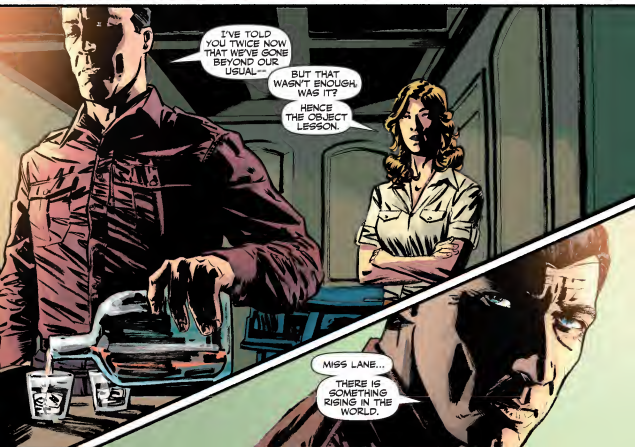
HOW DID YOU KNOW?

Nanking: A History of Rape and Other Stories by Robert L. Ross



THE RAPE OF NANKING WAS CALLED THAT FOR A REASON.

SIT DOWN.



I'VE TOLD YOU TWICE NOW THAT WE'VE GONE BEYOND OUR USUAL--

BUT THAT WASN'T ENOUGH, WAS IT?

HENCE THE OBJECT LESSON.

MISS LANE...

THERE IS SOMETHING RISING IN THE WORLD.



"IN THE WEST AS MUCH AS IN
THE EAST. A GREAT EVIL. A THING
THAT HAS TO BE CONFRONTED."

"IT WILL NOT BE OUTWITTED,
OR OUTMANUEVRD, OR SPLIT
INTO FACTIONS THAT RELIABLY
CONSUME EACH OTHER. IT CANNOT
BE TRICKED, LIKE THE DEVIL IN
SOME CHILDREN'S FABLE."

"IT MUST BE PULVERIZED."

"BURNT OUT."

"AND WHATEVER
YOU ENDURED TO
LEARN THIS LESSON
WILL BE WORTH IT."



GOD
ALMIGHTY!



IT'S THEM!
IT HAS TO BE!
GET THEM!

FULL AHEAD.
BRING ALL GUNS TO
BEAR BUT DO NOT FIRE
WITHOUT ORDERS.

CAPTAIN LLOYD,
CAN YOU PREPARE A
BOARDING PARTY?

ORDER'S
BEEN
GIVEN.



MM...?

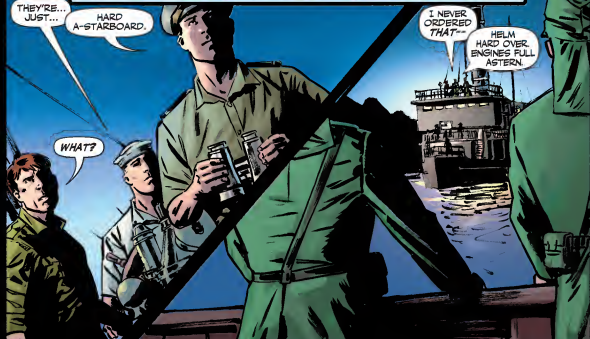
THE
ENGINES.



THEY'RE
SHOOTING!

OPEN
FIRE.







WHAT
THE HELL
DO YOU THINK
YOU'RE--

**ALL HANDS
BRACE FOR
IMPACT!**

WH--?

**HOLD
ONTO ME.**



TO BE CONTINUED